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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00781 231141Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W
----------101659 231147Z /13
P R 221600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9195
AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSYKHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NYK
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 781

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

YAOUNDE PASS COPY TO AMBASSADOR KRYZA
E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MMR, SS, OAU, PBOR
SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT DEPARTS ON VISIT TO TOGO

AND GABON
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REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 744(NOTAL), (B) NOUAKCHOTT 144(NOTAL)
(C) 77 LOME 3400(NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASDEFIED. MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH
DEPARTED NOUAKCHOTT ON MARCH 21 ON VISIT TO TOGO AND GABON.
MARCH 22 ISSUE OF MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT SPONSORED DAILY NEWS-

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PAPER CHAAB DESCRIBED VISITS AS PART OF CONTINUING SERIIES OF
PERIODIC MEETINGS BETWEEN CHIEFS OF STATE OF COMMUNAUTE
ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'QUEST (CEDEAO) MEMBERS.
ARTICLE NOTED THAT PRESIDENTIAL VISITS OF FRINDSHIP WERE MADE
IN RESPONSE TO INVITATIONS FROM THE PREFDENTS OF TOGO AND
GABON AND THAT PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH WILL TALK WITH TOGO
PRESIDENT EYADEMA ON QUOTE AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN GENERAL AND THE
BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND TOGO IN PARTICULAR
END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. PRESIDENT OULD DADDH'S VISIT TO TOGO
COULD POSSIBLY BE CONNECTED WITH NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE WESTERN
SAHARA DISPTE. DURING MARCH 16 MEETING AMBASSADOR MUHAVYD
KLD SIDCLI, FOREIGN MINISTRY SECGEN, SPECULATED THAT OAU
WOULD DISCUSS WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE BEFORE JULY 1978 KHARTOUM
OAU SUMMIT (REFTEL A). DURING MARCH 20 DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR
MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, I SPECIFICALLY ASKED HIM
ABOUT RUMORS OF ONGOING DRECT CONTACT BETWEEN MOROCCO, MAURITANIA
AND ALGERIA ON HE WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE. OFFICIAL NEITHER CON-
FIRMED NOR DENIED THIS SPECULATION, BUT RATHER AFFIRMED QUOTE
YES, ONE TALKS OF SUCH CONTACT UNQUOTE. TOGO HAS TAKEN ACTIVE
ROLE IN MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH POLISARIO LEADERS (REFTEL C)
AND WOULDT A LOGICAL SITE FOR MEDIATION DISCUSSIONS. MOROCCAN
EMBASSY DCM SUGGESTED IN MID-JANUARY THAT SUC DIRECT FACE TO
RKACE TALKS WERE BEING HELDIN EITHER YAOUNDE OR LOME (REFTEL XB).
MAURITANIANS WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT
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OF WESTERN SDGARA DISPUTE AND MAY BE ACCELERATING EFFORTS TO
BEGIN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS BY JULY 1978.

FARLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, VISITS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NOUAKC00781
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780128-0149
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780337/aaaabfjl.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 155dc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NOUAKCHOTT 744, 78 NOUAKCHOTT 144, 77 LOME 3400
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3239261
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT DEPARTS ON VISIT TO TOGO AND GABON CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, SS, TO, GB, OAU, (OULD DADDAH, MOKTAR)
To: STATE LOME
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/155dc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014